

STUDENT PROFILES, 2003



CALIFORNIA
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION
COMMISSION

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COMMISSION REPORT 03-09

Summary

This report is the latest edition of the Commission's *Student Profiles*. It provides comprehensive information about students in postsecondary education in California. *Student Profiles* contains information on first-time freshmen and transfer students that formerly appeared in other Commission reports as well as a wide variety of other data profiles, including total enrollment figures and information on student outcomes. Generally, the profiles display information covering the most recent 10-year period and end with data through the immediately preceding academic year – 2001-02 – as well as fall 2002 data.

Unlike most Commission reports, *Student Profiles* contains little analytic comment. Instead, the staff encourages readers to use these data as the basis for their own analyses. To facilitate that process, it should be noted that this edition of *Student Profiles* has been added to the Commission's Internet website -- www.cpec.ca.gov -- and is now electronically accessible to the general public. The data on the website is the most current as updates are received and posted regularly.

Additional copies of this and other Commission reports may also be obtained by e-mail at PublicationRequest@cpec.ca.gov; or by writing the Commission at 1303 J Street, Suite 500, Sacramento, Ca. 95814-2938; or by telephone at (916) 322-9268.

STUDENT PROFILES, 2003

*The Latest in a Series of Annual
Factbooks About Student Participation
in California Higher Education*



CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION
1303 J Street ♦ Suite 500 ♦ Sacramento, California 95814-2938



COMMISSION REPORT 03-09
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Guide to Contents

<i>Page</i>	<i>Section</i>
1	INTRODUCTION
1	Organization of the Report
3	Sources of the Data
3	Information on WASC-Accredited and AICCU Institutions
5	Caveats
6	Format of the Report and Availability of Data
6	Feedback About a Report

Section

1 | High School Graduates

Profile

California High School Graduates

1-1	All California Public and Private High School Graduates, 1993 to 2002
1-2(1)	Total California Public and Private High School Graduates by Region, 1993 to 2002
1-2(2)	Total California Public and Private High School Graduates by Region and Percent of Total, 1997 to 2002
1-3	“A-G” Completion Rates of Public High School Graduates, 1992-93 through 2001-02
1-4	“A-G” Completion Rates of Public High School Graduates by Region, 1996-97 through 2001-02, and Percentage Point Change Since 1996-97
1-5	California Public High School Graduates by Ethnicity, 1992-93 through 2001-02
1-6	Public High School “A-G Completions by Ethnicity, 1992-93 through 2001-02
1-7(1)	California Public High School Graduates and “A-G” Completions by Ethnicity, 1992-93 through 2001-02
1-7(2)	“A-G” ompletion Rates in Relation to California Public High School Graduates by Ethnicity, 1992-93 through 2001-02

2 | All Postsecondary Students

Profile

Total U.S. and California Postsecondary Enrollment

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2-1 | Total Enrollment in California Public and Private Colleges and Universities by Segment, Fall 1976 to Fall 2002 |
| 2-2 | Comparison of Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education -- California and the United States, 1970 through 2000 |
| 2-3 | Comparison of Population and Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education -- California and the United States, 1970 through 2000 |

Enrollment by Segment

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2-4 | Total Undergraduate Enrollment by Segment and Student Level, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 |
| 2-5 | Total Graduate Enrollment by Segment and Student Level, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 |
| 2-6 | Total Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollment and Percent Distribution by Segment, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 |

Enrollment by Time Status and by Gender

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2-7 | <p>Total Enrollment by Full-Time and Part-Time Status and by Gender, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002</p> <p>(A) at the University of California
 (B) at the California State University
 (C) at the California Community Colleges
 (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions
 (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions</p> |
| 2-8 | <p>Undergraduate Enrollment by Full-Time and Part-Time Status and by Gender, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002</p> <p>(A) at the University of California
 (B) at the California State University
 (C) at the California Community Colleges
 (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions
 (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions</p> |
| 2-9 | <p>Graduate Enrollment by Full-Time and Part-Time Status and by Gender, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002</p> <p>(A1) Graduate Enrollment at the University of California
 (A2) Intern and Resident Enrollment at the University of California
 (B) at the California State University
 (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions
 (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions</p> |

Enrollment by Ethnicity

2-10	Total Enrollment by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (C) at the California Community Colleges (D) at the Other Public Colleges and Universities (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions
2-11	Undergraduate Enrollment by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (C) at the California Community Colleges (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions
2-12	Graduate Enrollment by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A1) Graduate Enrollment at the University of California (A2) Intern and Resident Enrollment at the University of California (B) at the California State University (D) at the Other Public Institutions (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Non-Public Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions

Enrollment by Age

2-13	Total Enrollment by Age, Fall 1993 through Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (C) at the California Community Colleges
2-14	Total Enrollment by Age Category and Ethnicity, Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (C) at the California Community Colleges

Section

3 | First-Time Freshmen and New Students

Profile

California and U.S. First-Time Freshman Enrollment

3-1	Comparison of First-Time Freshman Enrollment in Higher Education -- California and the United States, Fall 1991 through Fall 2000
-----	---

California First-Time Freshman Enrollment by Segment

3-2	College-Going Rates of California Public and Private High School Graduates Enrolling in Each Segment of California Higher Education, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002
-----	---

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3-3 | Distribution of New Students, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University |
| 3-4 | All First-Time Freshmen Enrolled, by Gender and Comparison to Total First-Time Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University
(C) at the California Community Colleges
(E) at the AICCU Member Institutions |

California First-Time Freshman Enrollment by Ethnicity

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3-5 | First-Time Freshmen from California High Schools by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University
(C) at the California Community Colleges
(E) at the AICCU Member Institutions (Fall 1992 to Fall 2001) |
|-----|---|

California First-Time Freshman Enrollment by County

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 3-6 | Sources of First-Time Freshmen from California High Schools by County, Fall 2001 to Fall 2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University
(C) at the California Community Colleges
(E) at the AICCU Member Institutions |
|-----|--|

Section

4 | Transfer Students

Profile

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4-1 | California Community College Transfer Students by Segment, Fall 1992 to Fall 2001 |
| 4-2 | California Community College Transfer Students by Segment, Full-Year 1992-93 through 2001-02 |
| 4-3 | New Undergraduate Transfer Students by Segment of Origin, 1993-2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University |
| 4-4 | Undergraduate California Community College Transfer Students by Student Level and Segment of Origin, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002

(A) at the University of California
(B) at the California State University |

Transfer Students by Ethnicity

4-5	California Community College Transfer Students by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E) at the AICCU Member Institutions
4-6	Change in Share of California Community College Transfer Students by Ethnicity, Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E) at the AICCU Member Institutions
4-7	California Community College Transfer Students by Ethnicity, Full-Year 1993-94 to 2002-03 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University
4-8	Change in Share of California Community College Transfer Students by Ethnicity, Full-Year 1993-94 to 2002-03 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University
4-9	Total Undergraduate Enrollment, New California Community College Transfers by Ethnicity and Number of New CCC Transfer Students (per 1,000 Undergraduate Enrollments), Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (Fall 1992 to Fall 2001) (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions (Fall 1992 to Fall 2001)
4-10	Proportional Distribution of Total Undergraduate Enrollment, Proportional Distribution of New California Community College Transfers by Ethnicity and Number of New CCC Transfer Students (per 1,000 Undergraduate Enrollments), Fall 1993 to Fall 2002 (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (Fall 1992 to Fall 2001) (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions (Fall 1992 to Fall 2001)

Section

5 | Student Outcomes

Profile

Degrees Awarded by Type

5-1	Total Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Degree Type, 1992-93 through 2001-02
-----	--

- (A) at the University of California
- (B) at the California State University
- (C) at the California Community Colleges
- (D) at the Other Public Colleges and Institutions
- (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions
- (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions

Undergraduate Enrollment and Degrees Awarded by Ethnicity

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5-2 | <p>Total Undergraduate Enrollment by Ethnicity, Fall 1992 to Fall 2001, Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded by Ethnicity and Baccalaureate Degree Rate as a Function of Undergraduate Enrollment, 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions |
| 5-3 | <p>Baccalaureate Degree Rate as a Function of Undergraduate Enrollment by Ethnicity, 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions |
| 5-4 | <p>Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded by Ethnicity, and Number and Percentage of Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded to Students who Transferred from the California Community Colleges by Ethnicity, 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University |
| 5-5 | <p>Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Discipline Division, for Academic Years 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (C1) at the California Community Colleges (C2) 'More than One Year and Less than Two Year' Certificates at the California Community Colleges (C3) 'Less than One Year' Certificates at the California Community Colleges (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions |

Degrees Awarded by Discipline

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5-6 | <p>Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded by Discipline Division, for Academic Years 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions |
| 5-7 | <p>Master's Degrees Awarded by Discipline Division, for Academic Years 1992-93 to 2001-02</p> |

	(A) at the University of California (B) at the California State University (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions
5-8	Doctoral and First Professional Degrees Awarded by Discipline Division, for Academic Years 1992-93 to 2001-02 (A) at the University of California (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions
5-9	Further Professional and Post-Baccalaureate Certificates and First Professional Degrees Awarded by Discipline Division, for Academic Years 1992-93 to 2001-02 (A) at the University of California (E1) at the WASC-Accredited Institutions (E2) at the AICCU Member Institutions

Section

6 Area Specific Student Data

Profile

California College-Going Rates by County

6-1	Number of Recent Public and Private High School Graduates and Percent Enrolling in Each Segment of California Higher Education by County and Year, 1993 Through 2002
-----	--

Transfer Students by District and Campus

6-3	Flow of Transfer Students from California Community College Districts and Colleges to the University of California, the California State University and WASC-Accredited Colleges and Universities, Fall 1993 through 2002 and Full-Year 1993-94 through 2002-03
-----	---

Transfer Students by District by Ethnicity

6-4	Ethnic Distribution of California Community College Transfer Students to the University of California and the California State University, in Full-Year 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03
-----	---

California High School Graduates

6-5	Total California Public and Private High School Graduates by County and by Region, 1980 to 2002
-----	---

“A-G” Completion Rates of Public High School Graduates by County

6-6	“A-G” Completion Rates of Public High School Graduates by County and by Region, 1985-86 Through 2001-02
-----	---

Introduction

S*TUDENT PROFILES, 2003* is the latest edition in a series of factbooks issued by the California Postsecondary Education Commission to provide comprehensive information about students in postsecondary education in California. *Student Profiles, 2003* contains a wide-ranging set of graphs and statistical tables that allow readers to gain an understanding of the characteristics, of California students as well as trends in these characteristics, including enrollment, transfer, and program completion. Unlike most Commission reports, the *Student Profiles* series contains little textual comment and analysis about the data. Instead, the Commission hopes these reports provide the basis for such analysis by others.

The primary purposes of *Student Profiles* are to:

1. Provide a context to facilitate policy analysis by presenting a global view of students in California;
2. Permit prompt response to basic inquiries regarding student information;
3. Serve as a basic source of data for research;
4. Function as the Commission's "official" source of student statistics (by supplying correct, agreed-upon data, even if disagreement exists about the manner in which these data might be used in different policy analyses). Since institutions periodically update data provided to the Commission, readers are encouraged to go to the CPEC website (<http://www.cpec.ca.gov>) to secure the most up-to-date data; and,
5. Stimulate the production of special topical reports when specific trends in higher education warrant more detailed analysis and description.

Organization of the report

This report was reorganized twice in recent years for easier identification and location of information. Section 1 now highlights the profiles in the report that display information regarding California high school graduates. Section 2 now contains the postsecondary student enrollment displays.

A Guide to the Contents, highlighting clusters of profiles by subject, has replaced the former sequential table of contents. The entry for each profile in the Guide to the Contents is annotated in such a way as to link it to the same type of information in prior editions of *Student Profiles*. The profiles are clustered in the Guide by subject, with profiles of similar data

provided for each higher education sector for which data is available. Of greatest significance with this edition of *Student Profiles, 2003* is that the data is now tied directly to the Commission's source data files insuring that the most current and accurate data appears in the Profiles, and that these data may be replicated by the public at large from the new on-line data function through the Commission's Internet Website.

Student Profiles is divided into these six sections:

1. *High School Students*

This first section provides information about the number of public and private high school graduates, their origin and academic preparation by region, and their college-going rates at California public and independent postsecondary institutions.

2. *All Postsecondary Students*

The second section provides information about total student enrollment in California's colleges and universities in order to provide a context for later sections and an overview of the ways in which California's college student body has changed over the last decade.

3. *First-Time Freshmen*

The third section includes data that were formerly displayed in the Commission's annual *College-Going Rates* reports. In addition to information regarding recent high school graduates and their college-going rates in the public sectors of California postsecondary education, data in this section reflects the origin of all new freshman students, their gender and racial/ethnic distribution, and a comparison of California and first-time freshman enrollment in the United States.

4. *Transfer Students*

The fourth section contains information on students transferring from the California Community colleges to the California State University and University of California as well as facts about transfer students from the other systems to those institutions. The Commission published this information previously in its annual *Update of Community College Transfer Statistics*. However, information in this section has been expanded in order to portray a more accurate sense of student flow.

5. *Student Outcomes*

The fifth section of this *Student Profiles, 2003* report provides information on student outcomes, such as the number of degrees and certificates awarded at the public colleges and university systems, by level, gender, race/ethnicity, and by discipline. Beginning with the *Student Profiles 2000* edition, a number of profiles have been expanded to include more information on student outcomes at the California Community Colleges and the Independent institutions. Ultimately, the Commission would like

to present information beyond simply reporting the number of degrees awarded by California's colleges and universities, including graduation rate, student attrition, and persistence information once student-specific data is available from longitudinal databases.

6. *Area-Specific Student Data*

The sixth and final section of *Student Profiles, 2003* provides information on high school graduates and college-going rates by county, and on community college transfer students by district and campus. These tables were previously published in the Commission's annual *College-Going Rates* report and its annual *Update of Community College Transfer Statistics*, respectively. It also includes information by county on completion of the high school courses required for college admission. Information on this subject is also published in the Commission's periodic reports on university eligibility.

Sources of the data	California's colleges and universities are the data sources from which the Commission assembles <i>Student Profiles, 2003</i> . The State's public universities submit all of their enrollment and degree data to the Commission in electronic format. The California Community Colleges submit their data to their Chancellor's Office which currently provides the Commission direct access to their database. California's independent colleges and universities submit all of their data to the Commission using hardcopy survey forms generated from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) of the National Center for Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education.
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Information on WASC-accredited and AICCU institutions	Information on Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) - accredited and Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) member institutions is organized using two different sets of institutions: all WASC-accredited institutions in California and those that are members of AICCU. Since all members of AICCU are also WASC-accredited, the students represented by this data are included in both sets of numbers.
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All postsecondary institutions whose students receive financial aid were required to submit IPEDS data in 1998. With this mandate, independent institutions providing the Commission data increased substantially. Because data reporting prior to 1998 by these institutions had been inconsistent, historical trends in the data may be unclear.

Finally, because information about these colleges and universities comes solely from their IPEDS survey forms in which data is provided only in aggregate format, the Commission is more limited in its presentation of the data than is the case for public institutions. In addition, those survey forms do not collect all of the information that the Commission gathers through its individual student record data system.

Caveats Four limitations should be noted:

- First, the data reflects actual number of students – “headcount students” – rather than calculations of full-time-equivalent students (FTES).
- Second, while *Student Profiles, 2003* includes statistics on students in the State’s four major sectors of higher education – the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and California’s regionally accredited independent institutions – it does not cover statistics on two other areas of interest to the Commission: (1) private institutions in California that seldom submit student data to the Commission, including its non-accredited vocational schools and degree-granting institutions, such as business schools and flight-training institutes; and (2) California students attending college in other states. Both of these types of statistics are needed for *Student Profiles, 2003* to present a totally comprehensive picture of college-going behavior on the part of California’s residents.
- Third, data for the sector of independent institutions may reflect significant fluctuations from year to year. This is due largely to inconsistent reporting by individual institutions over the years and should not be misinterpreted as unusual student activity in this sector. The Commission is involved in continuous efforts to verify data reports from institutions in this sector in order to more accurately portray the characteristics of students attending these institutions.
- Lastly, data in this latest edition of *Student Profiles, 2003* supersedes data previously reported by the Commission both for the specific year to which this edition is devoted and for the indicated historical period. As a result of the Commission’s data verification process, institutions are encouraged to submit revisions to current and prior year data previously reported. These revisions as well as data received after official deadlines are added to the Commission’s database on a continuous basis. Therefore, data in this edition should be considered the most accurate available even though it may differ from similar data reported by the Commission in previous editions of *Student Profiles, 2003*.

Format of the report and availability of data

The Commission publishes *Student Profiles, 2003* on paper in a bound report, copies of which may be requested from the Commission’s Publications Unit at publicationrequest@cpec.ca.gov. The data tables and graphics were created using Excel software (Version Excel 2000). Most importantly, it should be noted that individual sections of *Student Profiles, 2003*, as well as the data on which the profiles in this report are based, are now available in their entirety on the Commission’s Internet web site, which is located at www.cpec.ca.gov. These data may be downloaded from the Internet to a user’s personal computer. The footnotes at the bottom of each profile page have also been revised to list the

Commission's Internet address as an additional guide to readers with respect to data available from the Commission.

**Feedback about
a report**

Student Profiles, 2003 is published by the Commission as part of its "postsecondary education information clearinghouse" responsibilities. The Commission staff hopes to continue to improve the quality and usefulness of these profiles by soliciting comments from users of this information. The Commission appreciates receiving comments about ways in which to make this report and its other documents more useful as well as advice about any errors of omission or calculations that should be corrected to enhance accuracy. Please direct your comments to:

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